(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the impression, generally prevalent in the western world, about India being a country of serious security risk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was scheduled to make a private visit to India. Government learnt of the cancellation of the visit from media reports.

(c) Government understands that the cancellation of the visit was in the context of general security concerns raised by the United States for its officials and citizens due to the situation relating to Iraq and was not specific to India. A number of high-level U.S. officials have visited India in recent months.

Visa free travel for Indonesians

3013. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(b) whether Government have decided to permit citizens of Indonesia holding diplomatic and official passport to have a visa free travel in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether similar facilities in Indonesia would be allowed to the Indian citizens on a reciprocal basis; and

(e) whether such facilities are also being contemplated in respect of other countries and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) As per the bilateral agreement signed with Indonesia on 3.4.2002, diplomatic and official passport holders of India and Indonesia can enter, transit or stay in each other's territory for a maximum period of 14 days without a visa. The agreement includes diplomatic and official passport holders of one country assigned to its diplomatic missions located

in the other country and representatives of one country assigned to International organizations located in the other country.

(d) Similar agreements are being contemplated with Brunei, Chile, France, Myanmar, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand and Uzbekistan.

Ill treatment with Indians in Malaysia

3014. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: SHRI R.P. GOENKA: SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: SHRI DATTA MEGHE: SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(f) whether it is a fact that recently, some 270 Indian IT. professionals, who are working in Malaysia for Indian or Malaysian companies on valid visas, were arrested, beaten up and their passports and visas were defaced and other indignities were inflicted on them by the Malaysian authorities;

(g) if so; the details thereof;

(a) the steps taken for safety and self-respect of the Indian professionals working in Malaysia; and

(b) the details of the long term steps contemplated, if any, to review the bilateral arrangements with Malaysia for cooperation in various fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) On March 9, 2003,195 Indian IT. professionals were detained by the Malaysian police for questioning about their visa status. The visa page on some of the passports were damaged in the process.